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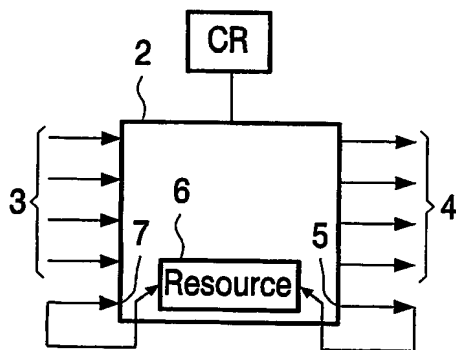
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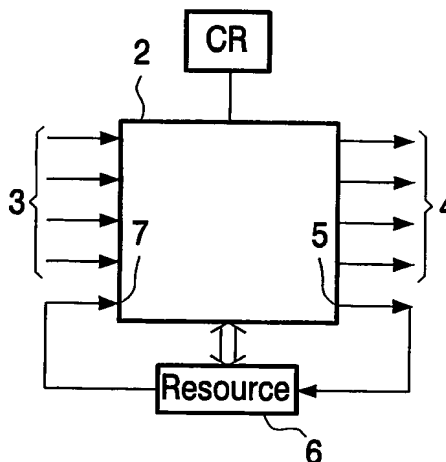
— with international search report  
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CONTENTION RESOLUTION COVERING ALL PORTS OF A DATA SWITCH



a



b

(57) Abstract: A communication network has one or more interconnected data switches having I/O ports and at least one virtual port. The communication network further has means for subjecting the ports to one and the same contention resolution process.

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*